GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:773
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
FISH DRYING ACTIVITIES IN WEST BENGAL
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued orders thereby restricting 10,000 fishermen from fish drying activities on Jambudwip Island, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal has approached the Union Government for regularisation of the 100 hectare land on Jambudwip for fish drying activities as per Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and also proposed for providing equal amount of land and necessary funds towards compensatory afforestation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Union Government has not issued any order restricting the fishermen from fish drying activities on Jambudwip Island, West Bengal. The Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 25.08.2003 has directed that no trawler or mechanised boat shall enter the water adjoining Jambudwip Island until further orders. In pursuance of this order fish drying activity has not been permitted by the State Government.

(c) & (d) The State Government has submitted a proposal for diversion of 100 hectare of reserve forest land for transient fishing and allied activities in Jambudwip Island as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In the proposal the compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 100 hectare of newly accreted land by the side of the river Malta, at a cost of Rs. 92.25 lakhs.

(e) The proposal submitted by the State Government was considered in the Ministry by the Forest Advisory Committee. The committee desired that the site inspection of the proposed area shall be carried out by Regional Office, Bhubaneshwar, the State Government should furnish the details of various alternatives examined for fish drying activities and as recommended by Central Empowered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court, clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs may also be obtained. The site inspection report and details of other alternatives have been received. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs have been reminded to expedite submission of their report/clearance.